

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

The actions of Pappas and Sinclair put to rest the canard that the media is liberal. Anyone who is the least big savvy knows this is simply a campaign by the foaming-mouth set of loud reactionaries as a tossed bone to their equally rabid listeners. How could anything that is completely owned by large corporations be and which always takes the side of conservatism and suppresses anything the least big progressive or even centerist be considered anywhere near liberal?

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Can they be allowed to thumb their corporate nose at your laws and statutes? Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.